

IN THE CLAIMS:

The instant amendment amends claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claims 14-20. After the entry of the instant amendment, the claims will be:

12. (currently amended) A method of manufacture of loose particulate material for use in waste water treatment, the method comprising contacting granules of plastic materials with grains entirely of a soluble substance, at an elevated temperature, to coat the granules with the soluble substance grains, and subsequently dissolving the soluble substance grains from the coating to provide the surfaces of the granules with concavities as a habitat for microorganisms effective in waste water treatment.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the soluble substance grains include sodium chloride.

14. (new) A method of manufacture of loose particulate material for use in waste water treatment, by processing a first material, the first material including granules of plastic material, the method comprising:

producing weighted granules by incorporating a second material into the first material, a density of the second material being greater than a density of the first material;

subsequently contacting the weighted granules at an elevated temperature with a third material, the third material including grains of a soluble substance, to coat the weighted granules with the third material; and

subsequently dissolving the soluble substance grains from the coating to provide the weighted granules with concavities as a habitat for microorganisms effective in waste water treatment.

15. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein third material is different from the second material.

16. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the soluble substance grains include sodium chloride.

17. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the second material includes grains of sand.

18. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the incorporating step includes acts to incorporate the second material substantially wholly within the granules.

19. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the second material includes grains of sand and the incorporating step includes acts to incorporate the second material substantially wholly within the granules.

20. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the dissolving step provides concavities covering substantially the entire surfaces of the weighed granules.